

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5010
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 2542

SAN JOSE FOR SAIC RAMIREZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, HO
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM - FY 1980 ZZB
GUIDELINES

REF: (A) STATE 063477, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 2292

1. THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED BY REFTEL A TO PROPOSE A TENTATIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM FOR HONDURAS IN FY 1980. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE EMBASSY PROPOSED A SMALL, \$50,000 PROGRAM UTILIZING AVAILABLE FY 1978 OR 1979 FUNDS (REFTEL B). THIS INITIAL PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO RESPOND TO THE EARLY NEEDS OF THE NEW GOH NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT GROUP ESTABLISHED APRIL 1978 IN RESPONSE TO THE DETECTION OF NARCOTICS CORRUPTION IN REGULAR GOH POLICE FORCES AND A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN HONDURAS' INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING. DEA AND THE EMBASSY ARE RECEIVING EXCELLENT COOPERATION FROM THE NEW GROUP AT HIGH LEVEL GOH IN CREATING MORE EFFECTIVE HOST-COUNTRY ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY. TIMELY APPROVAL OF THIS INITIAL FUNDING WOULD BE OF GREAT TACTICAL VALUE IN HELPING THIS NEW GROUP BECOME EFFECTIVE AT AN EARLY DATE.

2. THE FEASIBILITY OF A NARCOTICS PROGRAM OR OTHER PARTI-
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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 02542 311542Z

CIPATION IN FY 1980 FUNDING WOULD DEPEND ON HOW SOON THE NEW GOH NARCOTICS GROUP BECOMES EFFECTIVE AND ON THE INCIDENCE OF ILLICIT DRUG ACTIVITY DURING THE NEXT 18 MONTHS. ASSESSMENT OF BOTH THESE UNKNOWNNS WILL REQUIRE OBSERVATIONS OVER THE NEXT SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS. NEVERTHELESS, CURRENT TRENDS INDICATE INCREASING NARCOTICS ACTIVITY WHICH BY 1980 COULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER. THE SITUATION IS RATHER FLUID,

AND COULD IMPROVE OR WORSEN, DEPENDING ON GOH EFFECTIVENESS AND DEVELOPMENTS ELSEWHERE. IN EITHER EVENT, THE EMBASSY HAS ONLY LIMITED CAPABILITY TO KEEP ABREAST OF SITUATION WITH A PART-TIME NARCOTICS COORDINATOR AND THE TDY VISITS OF A DEA OFFICER.

3. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES, THEREFORE, THAT THERE IS A PROBABLE NEED FOR FY 1980 FUNDING IN SOME OF THE CATEGORIES SPECIFIED PARA THREE OF REFTTEL A, AND SUGGESTS THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN DURING BUDGET REVIEW PROCESS TO RESERVING UP TO \$100,000. IF A PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED, COSTS COULD RANGE FROM \$50,000 TO \$100,000, DEPENDING LARGELY ON WHETHER A NEED IS FORESEEN FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND ON THE DEGREE OF THE INCREASE IN ILLICIT NARCOTICS ACTIVITY OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. THE EMBASSY HOPES THAT THE FY 1980 PROGRAM WOULD HAVE ENOUGH FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO SUCH A "TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY" IF THE ONGOING REVIEW OF THE HONDURAS SITUATION SHOWS THAT A PROGRAM OF THIS SCOPE IS WARRANTED.
JARAMILLO

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